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(71) Applicant
Tanya May Eccleshall,
57 Gladeway, Shawburch, Telford, Shropshire

(72) Inventor
Tanya May Eccleshall

(74) Agent and/or Address for Service
Forrester Ketley & Co., Rutland House, 148 Edmund
Street, Birmingham B3 2LD

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(54) Cornice system with covered joints

(57) A cornice system comprises extruded supports (19) bonded to a wall and a ceiling, elongated cornice members (18) which are a snap-fit onto the support members and a cover (33) which is a snap-fit onto the elongated members to cover a butt joint therebetween.

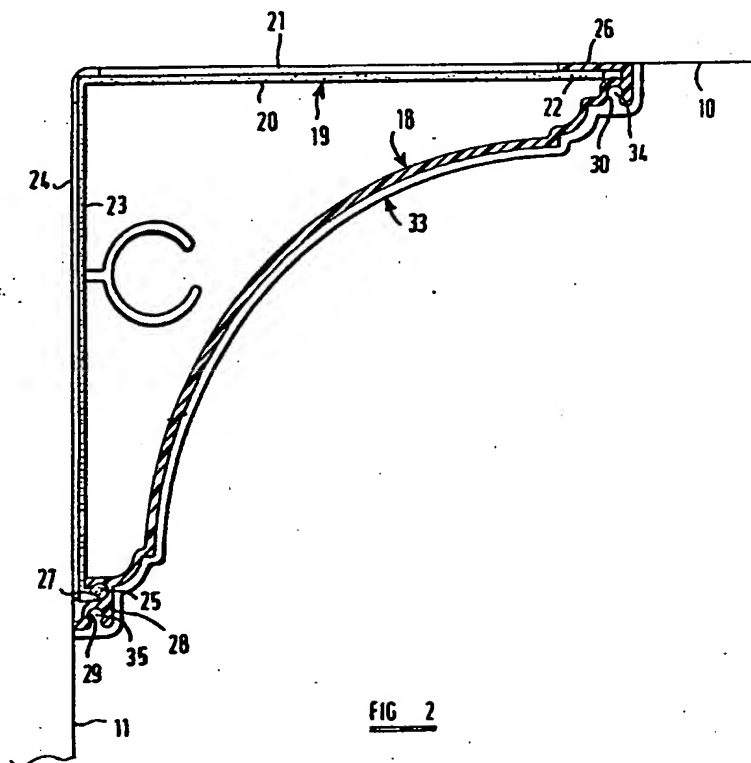


FIG 2

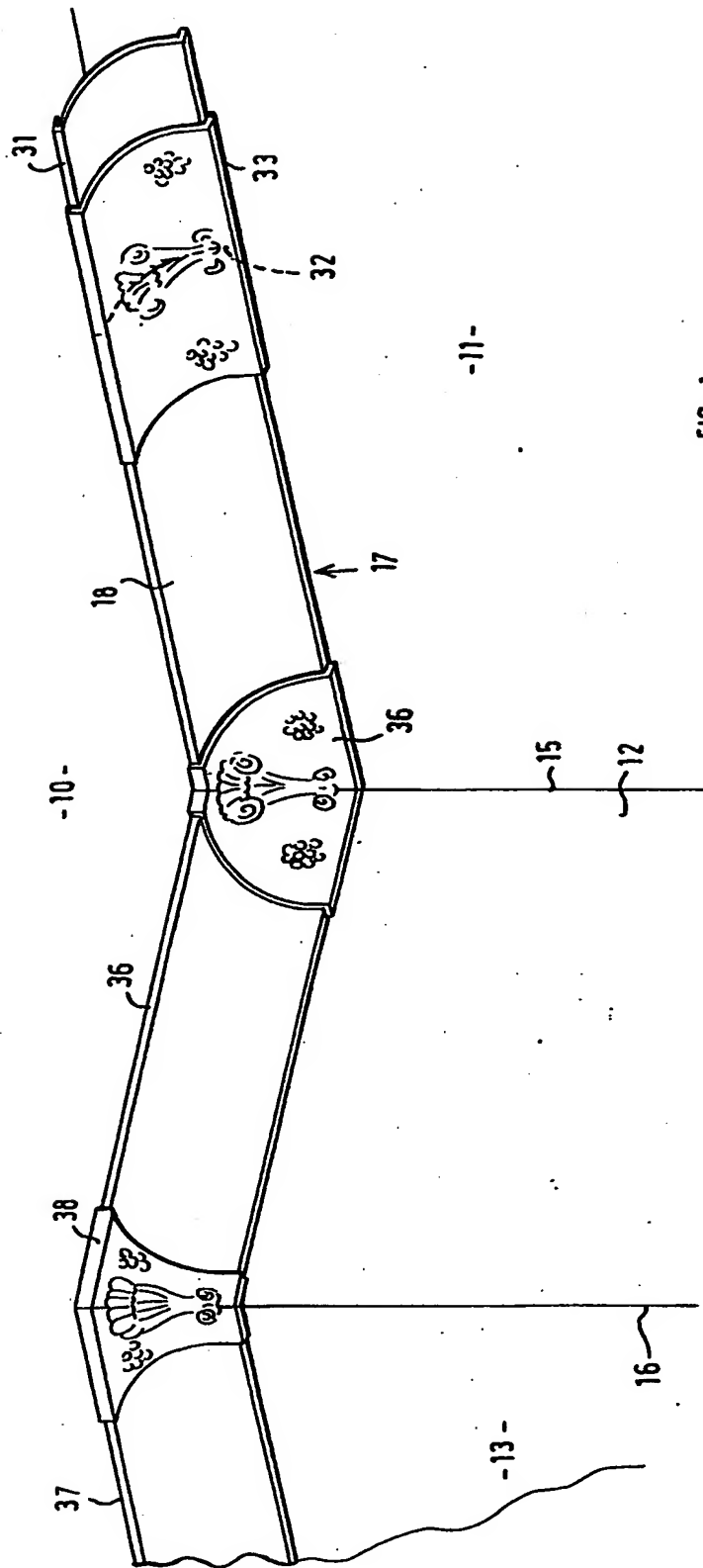
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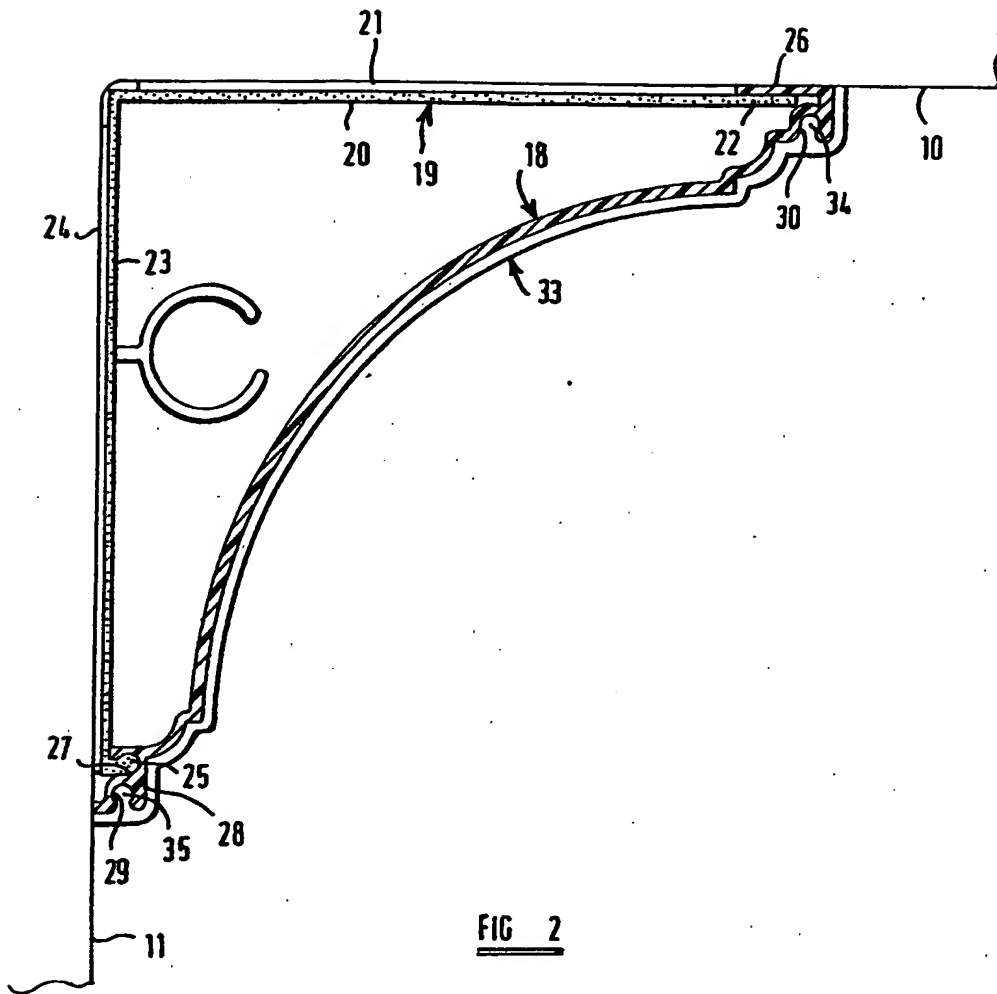


FIG 2

SPECIFICATION

Concealing wall-ceiling junctions

The present invention relates to the concealment of junctions between walls and ceilings and of other junctions between surfaces in a building.

In GB 2,097,440A, there is disclosed a structure comprising a row of metal clips secured to a wall and to a ceiling in the corner formed by the wall and ceiling and a trim strip which is a snap-fit in the metal clips and which presents a smooth, concave surface towards the room. Further trim strips conceal the junctions between the first wall and a further wall and between the further wall and the ceiling respectively. A moulded corner piece is interposed between mutually adjacent ends of the three strips. This corner piece has lugs which are received behind respective ones of the strips, so that the strips hold the corner piece in position.

The structure described in GB 2,097,440A has a number of disadvantages. Whilst there is some degree of overlap between each trim strip and the corner pieces, the joint between the strip and corner piece, and any gap between an end face of the strip and an opposed face of the corner piece, are not concealed from view from the interior of the room. Unless the trim strip is an exceptionally good fit between corner pieces at opposite ends of the wall, the joints will be unsightly and dirt will tend to accumulate in the gaps which are exposed to the room. Secondly, no provision is made for joints between successive trim strips along one wall. In general, trim strips having a length approximately equal to the length of a wall of a room cannot be stored, sold, transported and applied conveniently.

According to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided in a building comprising a floor, walls and a ceiling which define a room, an assembly at the junction of the ceiling with one or each of the walls, which assembly includes one or more elongated members, supporting means for supporting the or each elongated member adjacent to the junction and a cover, wherein the or each of said members is arranged with its length extending along the junction and having opposite margins adjacent to the wall and the ceiling respectively, the supporting means is disposed in a space enclosed by the wall, the ceiling and the member or members collectively and wherein the cover covers a part of the surface of the member, which part faces generally away from the ceiling and/or the wall.

The cover may cover respective end portions of mutually adjacent members, between which there is a butt joint. Any gap between respective end faces of the members will then be concealed by the cover from view from within the room.

The cover may extend around a corner of the room, covering respective end portions of members which extend from the corner along mutually adjacent walls.

The cover may extend along the entire length of a member or of several members arranged end-to-end. For example, the cover may be decorative and have an appearance which contrasts with that of the surface of the members exposed to the room.

The cover may be between end portions of the elongate member. The cover may serve to embellish the appearance of the member and several covers may be present on one member.

The elongate member preferably has a uniform cross-section in planes perpendicular to its length. Thus, the elongate member may be formed by extrusion or by rolling. By the application of covers to the member at intervals along its length, the transverse cross-section of the assembly at a position where a cover is provided can be markedly different from the transverse cross-section at a position between adjacent covers and the appearance of moulded plaster work can be simulated.

The cover is preferably a snap-fit on the elongated member. Thus, there may be provided two tongues and two channels lipped to receive the tongues with a snap-fit. One or both tongues may be provided on the cover with the other tongue or both of the channels being provided on the elongated member. Alternatively, both of the channels may be provided on the cover with the tongues being on the elongated member. Preferably, the channels are adjacent to respective ones of the ceiling and wall. In a case where both channels are provided on the same component, they preferably face in substantially the same direction.

The support means also may comprise an extruded or rolled member having a uniform transverse cross-section along its length. The elongate member is preferably a snap-fit on the support means.

According to a second aspect of the invention, there is provided an elongated member suitable for use in an assembly according to the first aspect, having a uniform cross-section in planes perpendicular to its length and defining two lipped channels which face in the same general direction and are disposed adjacent to respective margins of the member.

According to a third aspect of the invention, there is provided a method of concealing a joint between a ceiling and a wall, the method comprising the steps of fixing to the wall and/or the ceiling support components, snap-fitting elongated members to the support components and snap-fitting a cover over adjacent end portions of two of said elongated members.

An example of an assembly embodying the invention will now be described, with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:—

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a cornice assembly and adjacent walls and ceiling; and

FIGURE 2 shows a cross-section of the assembly in a plane perpendicular to the length of an elongated member of the assembly.

In Figure 1 of the accompanying drawings, there is illustrated certain parts of the boundaries of a room, including a ceiling 10, a first wall 11, a second wall 12 which is perpendicular to the wall 11 and defines therewith an internal corner 15 and a third wall 13 which is parallel to the wall 11 and defines with the wall 12 an external corner 16. A cornice assembly 17 extends around the periphery of the

ceiling and conceals the joints between the ceiling and the walls 11 to 13.

The cornice assembly comprises an elongate member 18 arranged with its length extending longitudinally of the joint between the wall 11 and the ceiling. One margin of the member 18 is immediately adjacent to the ceiling and the opposite margin is immediately adjacent to the wall 11. The member extends from a position near to the corner 15 a part of the way along the wall 11.

In the space defined between the ceiling 10, wall 11 and member 18, there is provided mounting means for mounting the member 18 on the wall and on the ceiling. The mounting means comprises a member 19 having an "L" cross-section in a plane perpendicular to the wall and perpendicular to the ceiling. A first, rectilinear limb 20 of the member 19 is secured to the ceiling in parallel relation thereto but spaced slightly therefrom, for example by a distance of one millimetre. A spacer 21 is interposed between the ceiling and the limb 20 over a part of that dimension of the limb which extends in a direction perpendicular to the wall 11. The spacer may be bonded to both the ceiling and to the limb 20, thus securing the mounting member to the ceiling. The spacer may be a layer of plastics foam having an adhesive layer on both of its opposite faces. A marginal portion 22 of the limb 20 extends beyond the spacer 21 and is spaced downwardly from the ceiling by a distance corresponding to the thickness of the spacer. A second, vertical limb 23 of the mounting member 19 is attached to the wall 11 in a similar manner by a layer 24 of plastics foam material having an adhesive on both of its opposite faces. Additionally or alternatively, the mounting member 19 may be secured to the ceiling and/or to the wall by nails or other fasteners. Along the free edge of the limb 23, there is provided a tongue 25 which projects from the limb generally in a direction parallel to the limb 20.

The mounting member 19 has a uniform cross-section along its length and may be formed by extrusion of a plastics material or by rolling metal strip. Preferably, a number of mounting members 19 are provided along the junction between the ceiling 10 and the wall 11, these members being spaced apart. The gaps between adjacent mounting members may be greater than the length of each mounting member. Typically, each mounting member has a length of 150 millimetre and is spaced from an adjacent mounting member by a distance of at least 300 millimetre.

The elongate member 18 is formed to engage the mounting member 19 with a snap-fit. Thus, the elongate member is provided along its uppermost margin with a tongue 26 which is received in the space between the ceiling 10 and the marginal portion 22 of the upper limb 20 of the mounting member. Adjacent to its opposite margin, the member 18 is formed with a lipped channel 27 for receiving the tongue 25. The latter tongue is somewhat thicker at a position spaced from the limb 23 than it is immediately adjacent to that limb. The lips at the entrance to the channel 27 are sufficiently pronounced to ensure that the tongue 25 is a snap-

fit in the channel that is to say during assembly of the member 18 with the mounting member 19, the components are stressed and the stress is at least partly relieved when the tongue 25 is fully inserted into the channel.

The member 18 includes a flange 28 disposed below the channel 27 and which is held in contact with the wall 11 by co-operation between the tongue 25 and the lips of the channel 27. The mutually engaged surfaces of the tongue 26 and limb 20 may be serrated to reduce the risk of the tongue 26 sliding away from the wall 11. It will be noted that the member 18 contacts the ceiling 10 at a position further from the wall 11 than are all parts of the mounting member 19 and that the member 18 contacts the wall 11 at a position further from the ceiling 10 than are all parts of the mounting member. Thus, the mounting member is completely concealed from view by the member 18.

The flange 28 defines a lipped channel 29 similar to the channel 27 but having its open mouth facing downwardly. The member 18 defines a further, downwardly facing, lipped channel 30 which is adjacent to the opposite margin of the member 18.

A second elongated member 31 is mounted adjacent to the junction between the ceiling 10 and the wall 11, in end-to-end, relation with the member 18. There is a butt joint 32 between the members 18 and 31. Respective parts of these members adjacent to the joint 32 are covered by a cover 33 having one face which conforms to the shape of the exposed face of the member 18. Adjacent to one of its margins, the cover has an upwardly projecting tongue 34 which is received with a snap-fit in the channel 30. Adjacent to its opposite margin, the cover has a further upwardly projecting tongue 35 which is received with a snap-fit in the channel 29. Respective marginal portions of the cover extend beyond these tongues into engagement with the ceiling and the wall 11 respectively.

The cover 33 may have a uniform cross-section along its entire length. In this case, the cover may be formed by extrusion of a plastics material. Alternatively, the cover may be embossed to present a pattern towards the room. In this case, the cover may be formed by moulding or may be formed by extrusion and subsequent deformation. The members 18 and 31 have uniform cross-sections along their entire lengths and are conveniently formed by extrusion of a plastics material.

A third elongated member 36 is mounted adjacent to the junction between the ceiling 10 and the wall 12. This elongated member may be identical with the member 18 and mounted in a corresponding manner. A corner piece 36 covers respective end portions of the members 18 and 36 which are adjacent to the internal corner 15. This corner piece has tongues corresponding to the tongues 34 and 35 to snap into the lipped channels of the elongated members. Those parts of the channels 27 and 29 which lie between the cover 33 and the corner piece 36 may be occupied by trim-strips (not shown) which are a snap-fit in the channels and which may

contrast in appearance with the member 18. For example, the member 18 may be white and the trim strips may be coloured.

A fourth elongated member 37, which may be identical with the member 18, extends along the wall 13 and is secured thereto and to the ceiling 10 in the same manner as the member 18 is secured. An external corner piece 38 covers respective parts of the member 18 and 37 which are adjacent to the external corner 16. The corner piece 38 snaps into channels of the members 31 and 37 which correspond to the channels 27 and 29. The corner pieces 36 and 38 are conveniently formed by moulding a plastics material and may have embossed or otherwise patterned surfaces which face into the room.

It will be noted that all cut ends of the elongated members are covered. Accordingly roughness of the cut-ends and small inaccuracies in cutting will not impair the appearance of the completed assembly.

The appearance of the assembly illustrated in the accompanying drawings can be modified by attaching further components to the elongated members, these further components having tongues which will snap into the lipped channels of the elongated members. By the application of such further components, the assembly may be given the appearance of an elaborate, moulded plasterwork cornice.

It will be noted that the space enclosed between the ceiling, the walls and the elongated members of the cornice assembly is not significantly obstructed by the mounting member 19. This space can contain service lines, for example electric cables or pipes of central heating installations. If required, the mounting members may be adapted to support cables and/or pipes. The covers and elongated members can be removed from the mounting members to enable access to be gained to any service lines behind the elongated members. It will be appreciated that, whilst the assembly has been described as being installed around the periphery of a ceiling, the components hereinbefore described may also be used along the junction between two walls, for example to provide a vertical channel for service lines.

In a case where the mounting member 19 is adapted to support service lines, this mounting member is preferably formed as a moulding of a plastics material, for example a nylon. The dimension of the moulded mounting member which extends along the joint between the wall and the ceiling may be somewhat less than the length of 150 millimetre hereinbefore mentioned. A moulded mounting member may be as short as 25 millimetres.

It will be understood that, whilst in the particular example illustrated in the accompanying drawings, the covers are provided with tongues for insertion into channels defined by the elongated members, the tongues could be provided on the elongated members for insertion into channels defined by the covers. Furthermore, there may be one tongue and one channel on each elongated member and on

each cover. Those parts of the elongated members and covers which extend between the tongue and channel formation are thin and curved. These parts are therefore readily flexible so that the assembly can follow undulations of a ceiling or departures of the face of the wall from a flat condition.

The flange 28 and the opposite marginal portion of the member 18 both incorporate more material per unit of distance across the member than does the middle portion of the member and are therefore stiffer than the middle portion.

The features disclosed in the foregoing description, or the accompanying drawings, expressed in their specific forms or in terms of a means for performing the disclosed function, or a method or process for attaining the disclosed result, as appropriate, may, separately or any combination of such features, be utilised for realising the invention in diverse forms thereof.

CLAIMS

1. In a building comprising a floor, walls and a ceiling defining a room, an assembly at the junction of the ceiling with one or each of the walls, which assembly includes one or more elongated members, supporting means for supporting the elongated members and a cover, wherein the or each of said elongated members is arranged with its length extending along the junction and having opposite margins adjacent to the wall and the ceiling respectively, the supporting means is disposed in a space enclosed by the wall, the ceiling and the member or members collectively and wherein the cover covers a part of the surface of the member, which part faces generally away from the ceiling and/or the wall.

2. An assembly according to Claim 1 wherein the cover is a snap-fit on said member.

3. An assembly according to Claim 2 wherein said member presents two lipped channels, one adjacent to the ceiling and the other adjacent to the wall, which channels face in substantially the same direction and wherein the cover has respective tongues engaged in the channels.

4. An assembly according to Claim 2 or Claim 3 wherein said elongated member is a snap-fit on the supporting means.

5. An assembly according to Claim 4 wherein said member has a tongue received between the supporting means and one of the ceiling and the wall.

6. An elongated member suitable for use in an assembly according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, the member having a uniform cross-section in planes perpendicular to its length and defining two lipped channels which face in the same general direction and are disposed adjacent to respective margins of the member.

7. A method of concealing a joint between a ceiling and a wall comprising the steps of fixing to the wall and/or the ceiling supporting components, snap-fitting elongated members to the supporting components and then snap-fitting a cover over adjacent end portions of two elongated members.

8. Any novel feature or novel combination of

features disclosed herein or in the accompanying drawings.

9. An assembly substantially as herein described

with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

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